

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 805

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Bob Patterson of Shelby County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Bob Patterson, Shelby County Trustee; and

WHEREAS, Bob Patterson was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Patterson served with acumen and alacrity as Shelby County Trustee, a position to which he was elected five times starting in 1990; as the county government's banker and tax collector, overseeing billions in annual cash flow, he earned the respect of his peers and constituents alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, inside the halls of local government, Mr. Patterson, a Republican, was known as a fiercely committed and knowledgeable elected official with a mind for numbers and technology, and a political savvy that allowed him to work across party lines; and

WHEREAS, a consummate professional, Bob Patterson took his duty to the public very seriously and insisted on efficiency, courtesy, and integrity from his employees; and

WHEREAS, Bob Patterson, as Trustee, always put the taxpayers of Shelby County first; he increased the collections of delinquent taxes, made it easier to pay taxes in person or online, and made his office as taxpayer-friendly as possible; and

WHEREAS, his efforts did not go unnoticed; he was honored in 2007 with the Victor E. Martinelli Award as the nation's top trustee by the National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers, and Finance Officers; and

WHEREAS, a self-described "country boy from the hills," Mr. Patterson grew up in Idalia, Missouri, the oldest of eight children whose parents worked on a farm outside town; and

WHEREAS, “Being a Hillbilly, you’re self-reliant,” he told *The Commercial Appeal* in 2003; “You need to stand up for what’s right and what’s good government. I’ll stand up against anybody for that”.; and

WHEREAS, a former United Methodist Sunday school teacher, Mr. Patterson had a varied career before becoming Trustee; he worked as a computer programmer, business owner, stockbroker, and, briefly, as Shelby County’s Comptroller in the early 1980s; and

WHEREAS, Bob Patterson was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty years, Virginia, and was the proud father of Tammy Geyrin, Robert Patterson, Jr., and Michael Patterson; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sorely missed by his four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Bob Patterson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Bob Patterson, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to the good people of Shelby County as their Trustee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Patterson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.